mission fields at home

Philadelphia 14, Pa.
March-April, 1961

On March 22, 1961 the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament joined with Philadelphians as they welcomed His Excellency, The Most Reverend John J. Krol, D.D. upon his installation as the sixth Archbishop of their foundation city.

Since the day in 1891 when the young community, headed by Reverend Mother Katharine Drexel, returned to Philadelphia to begin its home mission apostolate under the paternal guidance of Archbishop Patrick J. Ryan, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament have had cause to be grateful for the inspired leadership of the spiritual shepherds of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

In the Philadelphia Archdiocese are located the Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, the Novitiate, Blessed Sacrament College for the Education of S.B.S. missionaries, a Mission Center, Holy Providence Boarding School for Girls, four elementary schools where S.B.S. teach. In cooperation with the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine the Sisters supervise numerous catechetical centers in private homes in Philadelphia. These catechetical centers are a means of bringing home the teaching of the Church to some of the 450,000 non-Catholic Negroes who live in Philadelphia.

All of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament engaged in this home mission apostolate in the city of Philadelphia, as well as the hundreds of other S.B.S. scattered in 21 states on missions dedicated to the service of the Indians and Colored People, join in prayerful felicitations to Philadelphia's new Archbishop and their new spiritual shepherd.

Philadelphia's New

MISSION FIELDS AT HOME is published bi-monthly by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Second Class Postage paid at Philadelphia, Pa.

Vol. XXVIII, No. 2 Subscription $1.00 per year, $25.00 for life

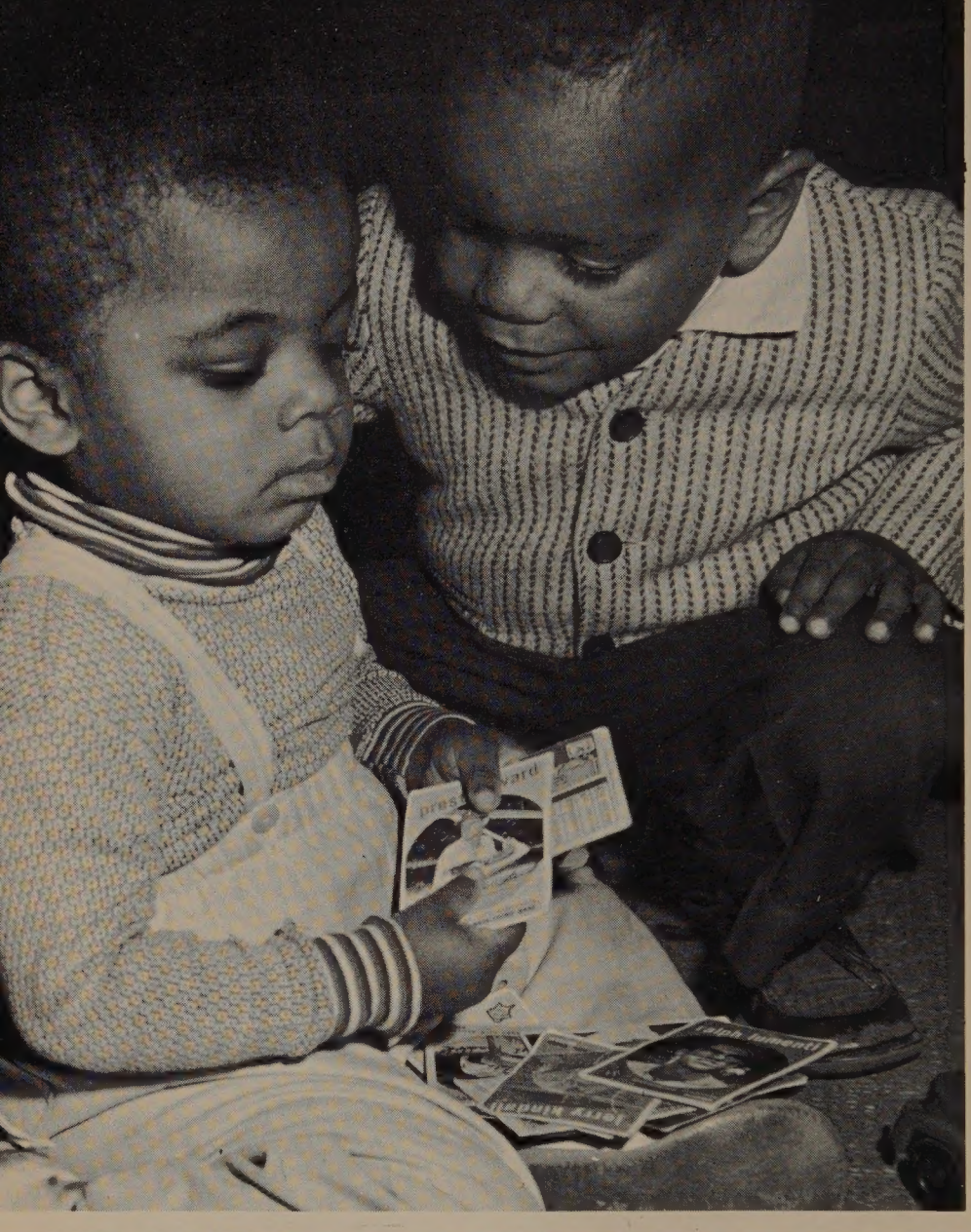
SULLIVAN BROS., Printers—Lowell, Mass.

Archbishop

The Most Rev. John J. Krol, D.D., J.C.D.

. . . a
picture
study

Children of The Missions



CHILDREN of the missions!
Challenge of today!
Hope of tomorrow!
Children of the bayou, the plains,
city streets, desert lands!
Today—Christ grows as they grow . . .
in Him!
Tomorrow—the **FULLNESS** of the
age of Christ!

This statement appeared in the N. O. Times-Picayune, N. O. States-Item, The Louisiana Weekly during the week of February 12, 1961.

The Sisters of the Blessed Sacram
Issue a call to Catholic New Orleans

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of Their Foundation

February 12, 1961

THE SISTERS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Issue a Call to Catholic New Orleans

Seventy years ago the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament were founded in Cornwells Heights, Pa., by Reverend Mother M. Katharine Drexel. Forty-six years ago she brought a group of her Sisters to New Orleans at the earnest request of the Most Reverend Archbishop Blenk. In the intervening years since, thousands on thousands of students have passed through their schools on every educational level from rural schools on the bayous of Louisiana to Xavier University. It has been an experience of joy and thanksgiving. The Sisters have known appreciation and love from a deeply appreciative people who found many doors to education closed to them. The look back is a pleasant memory geared to preparation for the day when racial barriers to education would disappear.

AFTER ALMOST A CENTURY OF WAITING THE DAY IS DAWNING

God has blessed this city with a beauty, culture and prosperity beyond the ordinary. All races have contributed to that. IN THE CHARITY OF THE HEART OF CHRIST CAN WE NOT FIND A COMMON MEETING GROUND OF DISCUSSION, UNDERSTANDING, MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND MUTUAL RESPECT?

In the present clouded atmosphere, **THE SISTERS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** appeal for Catholic articulation and behavior.

BOTH FROM A NATURAL AND A SUPERNATURAL POINT OF VIEW ALL MEN ARE BROTHERS. *Naturally*, all are of one biological origin in the parentage of Adam and Eve, and of one human nature composed of body and soul.

***Supernaturally*, all are one in the sin of Adam and Eve, the Redemption of Christ, the call to membership through Baptism in the Mystical Body, the Church, and please God, all will be one with Christ in His Exaltation for all eternity.**

THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE (BOTH COMMUTATIVE AND DISTRIBUTIVE), AND THE PRIMAL OBLIGATION OF CHARITY ARE EQUALLY BINDING ON AND APPLICABLE TO ALL MEN. Forced segregation violates both Justice and Charity.

BIBLICAL SCHOLARS KNOW THERE IS NO SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION FOR SEGREGATION. The claim for such a foundation in the Bible is absolutely and unequivocally false.

Long after this generation has passed, New Orleans will hold its queenly position at the mouth of the Father of Waters, and its towering cultural position among the cities of fair America. All races in this city have been endowed by God with rich talents to contribute to that culture. The hearts of the fine young students taught by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament look to the future, to the families they want to have, the homes they want to build in this their native city. The acceptance of God's point of view, the point of view of Holy Mother the Church in community relations, will keep the light burning in students' eyes and hope flaming in their eager hearts.

IN THE CHARITY OF THE GREAT HEART OF CHRIST LET US WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE HAPPINESS OF ALL CITIZENS OF NEW ORLEANS.

"Let us love one another, for love is from God, and everyone who loves is born of God. He who does not love does not know God, for GOD IS LOVE." (1 John 4:7-8)

THE SISTERS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

7325 Palmetto Street, New Orleans 25

Their Alma Mater — Xavier University in New Orleans!

Mr. Benjamin Johnson, New Orleans attorney

Miss Iona Berteaux, Principal in N. O. Public School system

Mr. George H. Carpenter, Assistant Professor of Education at Xavier Univ.

Sr. Peter Julian with
children of Laguna

Pueblo Mission

The old Laguna Mission, directed by the Franciscan Fathers, is one of the best known of all the early New Mexico Missions. It is situated in the Pueblo of Old Laguna which is on Highway 66 — 47 miles west of Albuquerque. This Pueblo is built upon a great rock which rises gradually from the San Jose River on the south.

At Laguna there is no school but there is much to challenge the zealous heart of the S.B.S. missionary. More than five thousand of God's Indian children are dispersed over the Acoma and Laguna reservations and of these more than seven hundred are reached weekly for instructions. The Sisters,

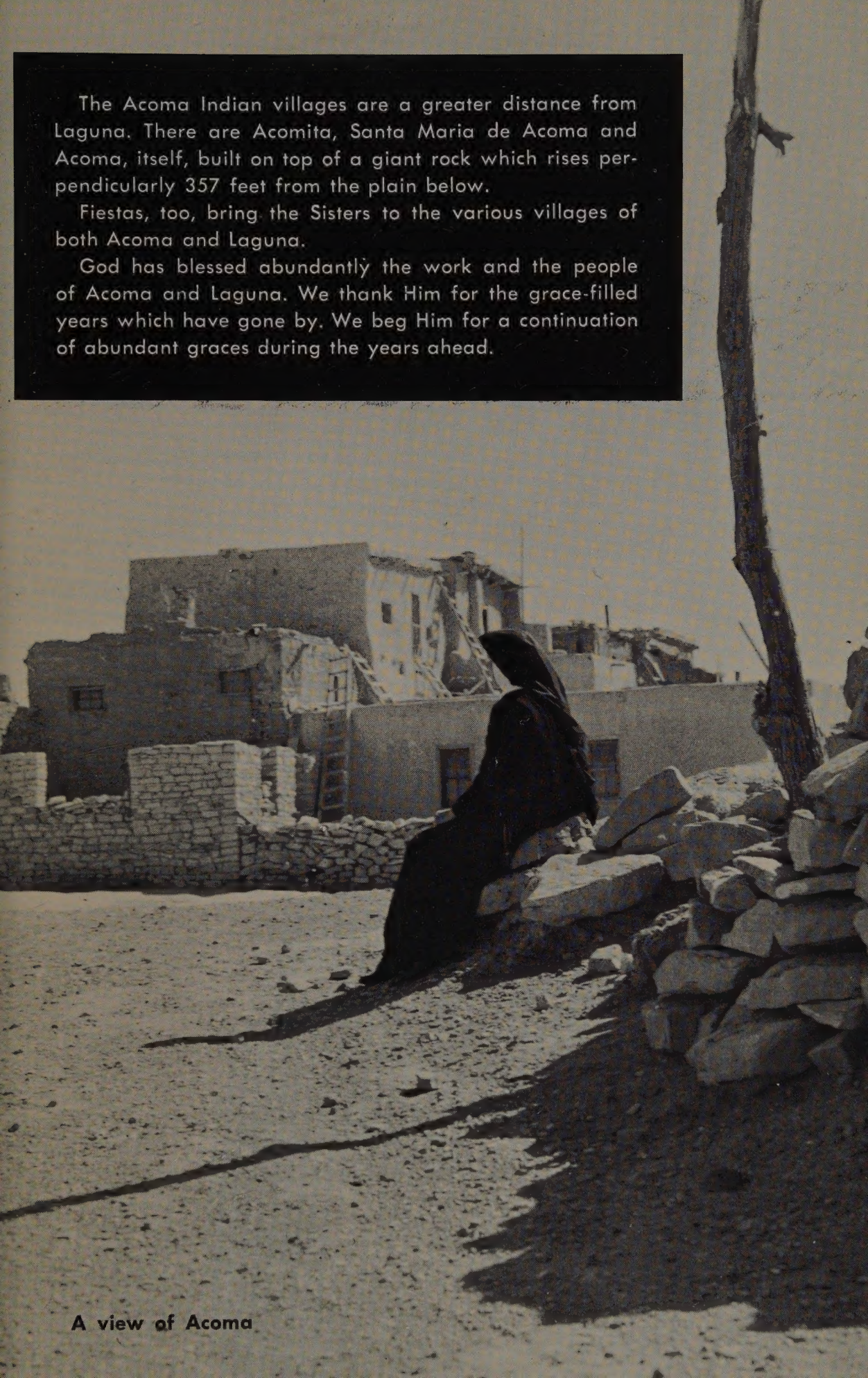
who live in the Laguna Pueblo, regularly visit a number of the surrounding villages to give these instructions. Government schools, Laguna parish hall, mission churches and private homes serve as centers for the catechism classes. Three Indian catechists aid the priests and sisters in their efforts to teach in as many areas as possible.

Each day has its special villages assigned for instruction and visitation. Mesita is just six miles east of Laguna. Paguate is more difficult to reach — twelve miles northeast of Laguna and eleven miles northeast of Highway 66. And once off the highway the mountain roads are far from the easiest way to travel! Paraje, Encinal and Seama are other Laguna villages to the west.

The Acoma Indian villages are a greater distance from Laguna. There are Acomita, Santa Maria de Acoma and Acoma, itself, built on top of a giant rock which rises perpendicularly 357 feet from the plain below.

Fiestas, too, bring the Sisters to the various villages of both Acoma and Laguna.

God has blessed abundantly the work and the people of Acoma and Laguna. We thank Him for the grace-filled years which have gone by. We beg Him for a continuation of abundant graces during the years ahead.



A view of Acoma

Sr. M. Aidan prepares the children for their first Holy Communion

Five Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament are missioned at St. Monica's in Gary, Indiana.

Gary, Indiana, Steel City has grown rapidly, its population keeping pace with the ringing clang of steel and the roar of the blast furnaces. From all parts of the country Negroes have come seeking work in the mills, until now, Negroes make up 60% of its total population. St. Monica's, like so many city missions is more than a parish. It's an oasis in the midst of the roar and din of city life. The missioner is

Photo credits — this issue:
Page 3—Philadelphia Inquirer
Page 9—Stanley M. Saulny, X. U.
Pages 14 & 15—U. S. Steel Photo
Back Cover—Rev. John G. Barnett, S.S.J.

Rev. Joseph M. Barry, O.M.I., pastor of St. Monica Church in Gary, instructs the children.

. . . missioned in the midwest

STEEL CITY

teacher, social worker, counselor, friend to the hundreds who have received the gift of Faith. They come seeking food for the spirit in an active parish life. The school, as an integral part of this parish life, provides Catholic training for their children.

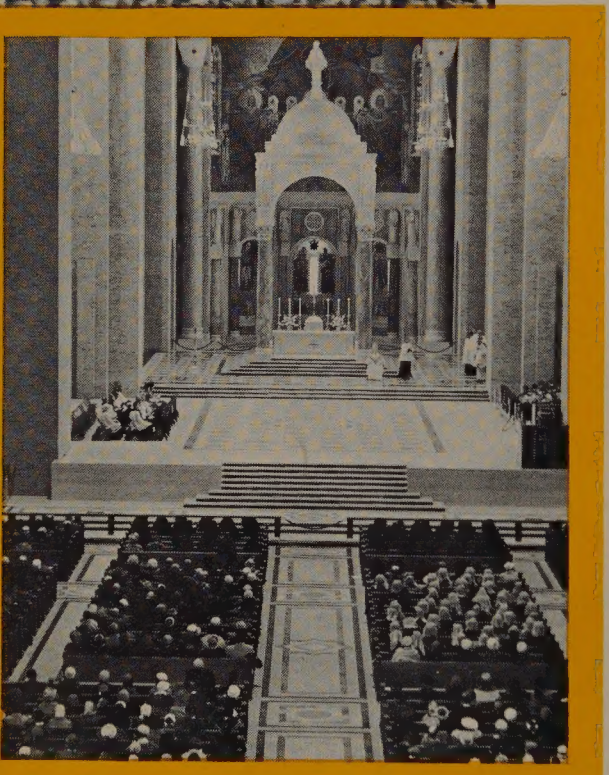
So, in a city whose skies glow with the flame of the hearth, the missionary labors to spread the flame of the Spirit.

Choir practice with Sr. Patrick Marie

Our National Alumni Association celebrates our 70th anniversary

On February 12, 1961 a Solemn Pontifical Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Philip M. Hannan, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament by Mother Katharine Drexel.

The celebration, sponsored by the S. B. S. National Alumni Association brought almost 2500 people to the National Shrine. The seemingly endless stream of people, friends, alumni, past and present students of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament who filed into the Shrine for the Solemn Pontifical Mass was the greatest tribute of loyalty and appreciation which could have been paid to the Sisters, who for seventy years have served Christ in the Indians and Colored People of our country.



Members of the various active Chapters of the Alumni Association (there are active chapters in eight different cities) were present. The choir of St. Francis de Sales High School in Powhatan, Virginia, sang the Mass. An almost capacity crowd at the National Shrine joined with the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as they offered with the Bishop and the many priests in the sanctuary the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

It was an occasion long to be remembered. We Sisters are grateful to the loyal and devoted members of our National Alumni Association who are striving so generously to help us continue the work begun by Mother Katharine Drexel seventy years ago.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the many subscribers and auxiliaries who joined with us in the celebration through their greetings, prayers and generous gifts.